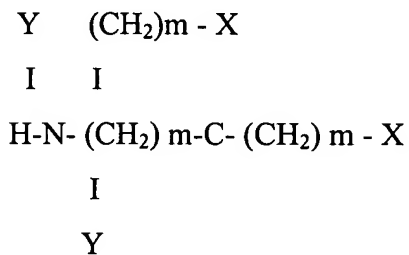


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A compound comprising radially asymmetric dendrimeric polymer backbone with linked thereto at least one reporter moiety, said polymer backbone comprising a plurality of amine-containing acids extending radially asymmetrically in one direction from a central core moiety.
2. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polymer backbone comprises a plurality of native or non-native amino acid residues.
3. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein said polymer backbone comprises from 3 to 200 amino acid residues.
4. (currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein said dendrimeric polymer backbone comprises from 3 to 200 amino acid residues extending radially asymmetrical in one direction from a central core display.
5. (amended) A compound as claimed in claim 4, wherein said core moiety is selected from $\text{H}_2\text{NCOCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CONH}_2$, and



wherein $m=0-4$;

each Y independently represents hydrogen or an alkyl or aryl group; and
each X independently represents a ~~-CO₂H, -SO₂Cl~~ -C₂H₄, -S₂Cl or
~~-CH₂Br group and derivatives thereof.~~

6. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 4, wherein said core moiety comprises a reporter moiety.
7. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 4, wherein said core moiety comprises a targeting agent capable of travelling to or binding specifically to targeted cells, tissues, organs or other locations in a mammalian body.
8. (previously amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein said polymer backbone has a molecular weight of from 300 to 20,000 daltons.
9. (previously amended) A compound as claimed in claim 2, wherein said polymer backbone comprises a polymer of a single species or at least two different species of amino acids, or a block copolymer.
10. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein said polymer backbone is poly-l-aspartic acid.
11. (previously amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, comprising from 3 to 200 reporter moieties.
12. (previously amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein each reporter moiety is linked to said polymer backbone via a biodegradable linking group.
13. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 12, wherein said linking group is selected from amide, ether, thioether, guanidyl, acetal, ketal and phosphoester groups.

14. (currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim 12, wherein said linking group comprises an amide bond, the amide nitrogen deriving from the backbone molecule and the amide carbonyl deriving from a carboxyl ~~or carboxyl derivative~~ on the reporter group.
15. (previously amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one reporter moiety comprises a diagnostic or therapeutic agent.
16. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 15, wherein said agent comprises the residue of a chelating agent or metal chelate thereof.
17. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 16, wherein said chelating agent is a contrast agent comprising at least one paramagnetic metal ion.
18. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 17, wherein said metal ion is selected from the lanthanide metal ions, Mg, Ca, Sc, Ti, B, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ga, Sr, Y, Zr, Tc, Ru, In, Hf, W, Re, Os, Pb and Bi.
19. (previously amended) A compound as claimed in claim 16, wherein said chelating agent is selected from ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA), diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid (DTPA), 1,4,7,10tetraazacyclododecanetetraacetic acid (DOTA), 1,4,7,10~tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7~triacetic acid (D03A), 1,4,7,10 triazacyclododecanetriacetic acid (DOXA), 1,4,7-triazacyclononanetriacetic acid (NOTA) and 1,4,8,11-tetraazacyclotetradecanetetraacetic acid (TETA).
20. (previously amended) A compound as claimed in claim 16, wherein said chelating agent is selected from 4'-(3-amino-4-methoxy-phenyl)-6,6''-bis(N',N'-dicarboxymethyl-N-methylhydrazino)-2,2'''6',2''-terpyridine (THT) and 4'-(3-amino-4-methoxy-phenyl)-6,6'' bis [N,Ndi(carboxymethyl)aminomethyl]-2,2':6',2''-terpyridine (TMT).
21. (original) A compound as claimed in claim 15, wherein said agent comprises an ionic or non-ionic iodinated monocyclic or bis-eyclic X-ray contrast agent.

22. (previously amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 linked to a targeting agent capable of traveling to or binding specifically to targeted cells, tissues, organs or other locations in a mammalian body.

23. (currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim 7, wherein said targeting agent comprises E. coli heat stable enterotoxin STa ~~or an analogue thereof.~~

24. (cancelled)

25. (cancelled)

26. (previously amended) A process for preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising conjugating at least one reporter moiety to a dendrimeric polymer backbone comprising a plurality of amino acid residues.

27. (cancelled)

28. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound comprising a linear, branched or dendrimeric polymer backbone with linked thereto at least one reporter moiety, said polymer backbone comprising a plurality of amino acid residues, said process comprising:

(a) stepwise linking of successive protected amino acid residues in the amino to carboxy direction whereby to form a polymer backbone;

(b) linking the polymer backbone to one or more reporter moieties, optionally via a linking group; and

(c) deprotecting any protected group.

29. (previously amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1, together with at least one pharmaceutical carrier or excipient.

30. (cancelled)

31. (previously amended) A method of generating an image of the human or non-human animal body, said method comprising the step of administering to said body a compound as claimed in claim 1 and thereafter generating an image of at least a part of said body.